

OPERATIVE OBSTETRICS—Second Edition—R. Gordon Douglas, Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Cornell University Medical College; Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynecology to The New York Hospital and to The Roosevelt Hospital; and William B. Stromme, Clinical Assistant Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Minnesota Medical School; Attending Obstetrician and Gynecologist, Northwestern Hospital and Fairview Hospital, Minneapolis. With assistance from Masao Nakamoto, M.D., Chief of Obstetrics, The White Memorial Medical Center; Attending Obstetrician and Gynecologist, The White Memorial Hospital, Los Angeles. Foreword by Nicholson J. Eastman, Appleton-Century-Crofts (Division of Meredith Publishing Company), New York, 1965. 779 pages, \$22.50.

This is not merely an atlas of obstetric surgery, as might be inferred from its brief title, but a profusely illustrated textbook concerned with every facet of operative obstetrics and the care of women who require obstetric operations, or operations while pregnant. Prior to its first edition, it was conceived as a companion to *Williams Obstetrics*, the popular general textbook published by the same firm that has turned out the two editions of this operative text. Thus it presents not only the details of how best to accomplish all the usual and even unusual obstetric maneuvers, but it covers such related topics as pelvic anatomy, preoperative care, anesthesia, infant resuscitation, postoperative care, and post-operative complications. There is even a chapter on surgical problems outside the generative tract, particularly those that may be anticipated in any large group of pregnant women, such as appendectomy, cholecystectomy, colostomy, herniorrhaphy, urinary tract operations and so forth.

The new edition includes virtually all the innovations and new concepts in obstetric practice that have gained appreciable popularity in the last decade, such as external cardiac massage, new anesthetic agents, paracervical block anesthesia, hypertonic saline to effect abortion, the vacuum extractor, and intrauterine transfusion, just to mention a handful. Descriptions and illustrations of several outmoded procedures have been deleted, but 169 new and original illustrations have been added, so that the new edition is a bit thicker than the first.

As the authors suggest in the preface, this book may have particular value for the busy resident who has not had time to learn about alternative techniques while applying the standard procedures of his own institution. Perhaps in the first year or two of private practice, when time for browsing is at hand, he would find it profitable to learn more of the background of those maneuvers with which he already has a certain familiarity, and to discover a number of worthwhile procedures that passed him by in the daily rush of hospital duties and domestic crises. Though this clearly is a volume that should be available in every teaching hospital, I suspect its profusion of detail will not endear it to the average undergraduate medical student, who already staggers under the load of reading the standard textbooks.

Some of the illustrations are borrowed from books and periodicals, but the majority of them are outstandingly good originals. In many instances, photographs of actual situations are supplemented by superb, adjacently placed line drawings showing precisely what was in progress. A fairly extensive list of references concludes each chapter. Certainly this book fills a need in obstetric teaching at the graduate level and can be highly recommended for that purpose. The fact that my personal copy of the earlier edition of *Operative Obstetrics* has long since permanently disappeared from my office bookshelf perhaps testifies to the popularity of this volume, in Palo Alto at least.

CHARLES E. McLENNAN, M.D.

FUNDAMENTALS OF CLINICAL HEMATOLOGY—Second Edition—Byrd S. Leavell, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine; Physician-in-Charge, Hematology Section, School of Medicine, University of Virginia; Attending Physician, University of Virginia Hospital; and Oscar A. Thorup, Jr., M.D., Associate Professor of Internal Medicine; Physician-in-Charge, Hematology Clinic, School of Medicine, University of Virginia; Attending Physician, University of Virginia Hospital. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1966. 597 pages, \$12.50.

This is an excellent text which covers the field of hematology. It is well written, easy to read, and has a complete bibliography. Because of its small size it must be quite brief in some areas. The sections include an initial review of the basic scientific aspects of a disease or defect followed by a discussion of the entity associated with the defect. For example, in a presentation of the disorders of vitamin B-12 and folic acid metabolism, there is initial discussion of the mechanisms of action of these vitamins which is followed by a description of clinical disorders characterized by these deficiencies. In each chapter there are divisions related to clinical and laboratory findings as well as brief paragraphs concerning therapy and prognosis. And in many instances pertinent brief case histories are presented.

The chapter entitled "Hemostasis, Theory and Applications" is a noteworthy review of the current status of the factors governing blood clotting. It presents a clear and concise picture of this complicated field.

The charts and tables are simple and pertinent and enhance the written text. However, the book has a minimum of illustrations and perhaps this detracts from some of its presentations. Specifically, in the first chapter where pictures of erythroid and myeloid precursors in the bone marrow included in the paragraphs describing them would have been very helpful. The section on lymphomas could have been improved by the use of descriptions as well as illustrations of the specific histologic alterations of these diseases.

The final section on laboratory procedures with accompanying bibliography is an appropriate addition to a hematologic text.

To summarize, this is an accurate and inclusive text of hematology. It would be most useful for the medical student, and of special interest to the practicing physician who would like to have at his fingertips an available source of concisely written and current information in this field.

ESTHER F. HAYS, M.D.

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MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, UNITED STATES ARMY, SURGERY IN WORLD WAR II—Thoracic Surgery, Volume II—Prepared and published under the direction of Lieutenant General Leonard D. Heaton, The Surgeon General, United States Army. Colonel Arnold Lorentz Ahnfeldt, MC, USA, Editor in Chief; Frank B. Berry, M.D., Editor for Thoracic Surgery; Elizabeth M. McFetridge, M.A., Associate Editor. Office of The Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1965. 615 pages, available for purchase at \$7.25 per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402.

This volume, comprising a part of the official history of the Medical Department of the U.S. Army in World War II, is a carefully edited and interesting account of the management of chest injuries incurred under battlefield conditions during those war years. It is a surprisingly informative and pertinent document, laying down rules of therapy formulated on a wealth of experience which still make up much of the basis of current treatment.

The first volume of this two-volume series, published in 1963, dealt primarily with statistical and administrative material. The present book is divided into three sec-